

**THE DUNDEE AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY**  
**CENTENARY PERFORATOR**  
**David Stirrups FRPSL**

As a contribution to our centenary celebrations in 2005 I thought it would be nice to have our own perfin. Charles Gibson, a Dental School instrument technician, over many lunch hours, turned my sketchy design into a device capable of perforating up to five stamps if stacked or folded

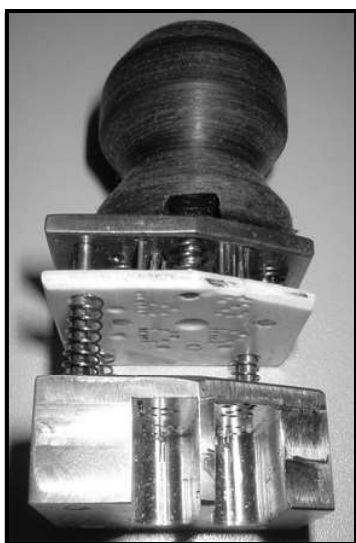


Figure 1

on top of one another. Figure 1 shows the overall finished machine and figure 2 the resultant perfin. **Roy Gault** the Society Catalogue Editor has given this design the catalogue number D1365.01.

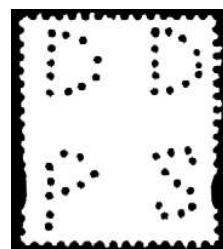


Figure 2

The device consists of a brass base, (figures 3 & 4), drilled to accept the steel perforating pins, four small pins against which to locate the stamps and three corner rods on which to locate the superstructure. These rods sit inside cylindrical holes that accommodate the springs that are compressed when making the perfin and raise the superstructure afterwards.

The lower part of the superstructure is a plastic plate (figure 5) that fits over the location rods of the base and is drilled for the perforating pins to pass through. This plate is pushed down to secure the stamps in the correct position as the first phase of making



Figure 4

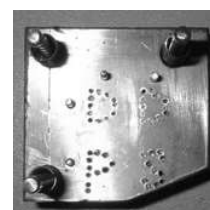


Figure 3

the perfin before further pressure makes the holes. To this pressure plate is fixed a brass plate that carries the perforating pins and is supported by four further spring loaded rods (figure 6). These springs are compressed in the second



Figure 5

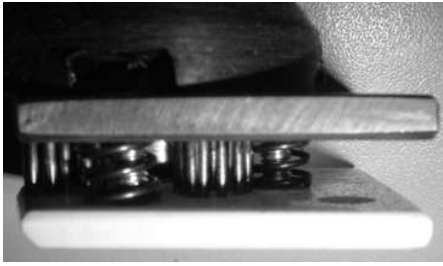


Figure 6

stage, when further pressure pushes the perforating pins through the stamps and lift the pins out when pressure is released. A turned knob completes the device.

Some 200 perfins were made mainly on Scottish first and second-class stamps before two of the pins broke and there are about another 20 stamps made with the damaged state.